(iii) The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecure wildlife offenders.

(iv) The Ministry of Home Affairs has addressed all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A National Wildlife Action Plan (2002-2016) has been launched with several action points and priority projects for conservation and protection of wildlife in the country.

Bt. Cotton

340. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Institute for Cotton Research, Nagpur has said that certain varieties of Bt. Cotton would not be successful in India;

(b) if so, the details of the findings; and

(c) the details of the action taken by the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee (GEAC) in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) The reports of the Central Institute for cotton Research indicates that Bt. technology is effective in controlling bollworms, a major pest in cotton crop.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Forest cover

341. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any special schemes have been formulated in the Tenth Plan to bring 33 per cent of the country under forests cover by 2012.

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the present percentage of forest cover in the country, State-wise;

(d) the targets fixed for each State and their achievement in this regard; and

(e) the allocations made in the Tenth Plan period for bringing more areas under forest cover,State-wise and the steps taken/to be taken to achive the target within the stipulated time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment and Forests has not formulated specific schemes in the Tenth Plan to bring 33% of the country under forest cover by 2012, however, National Afforestation Programme (NAP) has been launched during the Tenth Plan to institutionalize people's participation for regeneration and development of degraded forests and adjoining lands through a 2-tier decentralized mechanism of Forests Development Agency (FDA) at the forest division level and Joint Forest Management Committees (JFMCs) at the village level.

(c) The State/Union Territory-wise forest cover as per State of Forest Report, 2003 prepared by Forest Survey of India is given in Statement-I (*See* below).

(d) Against an envisaged target to operationalise FDAs in all Forest Divisions in the Country, 620 FDA projects have been approved in all States upto 31.03.2005 to treat an area of 8.68 lakh hectares during the Tenth Plan. The State-wise number of FDA projects approved is given in Statement-II (*See* below).

(e) In addition to implementing the National Afforestation Programme, the Ministry of Environment and Forests has taken a number of initiatives to increase the pace of tree planting in the country, especially on non-forest lands. These include rationalization of felling and transit regulation of trees species grown on non-forest private lands, request to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to involve all landowning departments in tree planting by constituting an inter-departmental committee under the chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary, and to formulate and implement a Media Plan to generate mass awareness amongst general public about tree planting.

Statement-I

Forest Cover In States/Union Territories

(As per State of Forest Report 2003)

(Area in km2)

Sl. No.	State/Uts	Forest Cover
1	Andhra Pradesh	44419
2	Arunachal Pradesh	68019
3	Assam	27826
4	Bihar	5558
5	Chhattisgarh	55998
6	Delhi	170
7	Goa	2156
8	Gujarat	14946
9	Haryana	1517
10	Himachal Pradesh	14353
11	Jammu and Kashmir	21267
12	Jharkhand	22716
13	Karnataka	36449
14	Kerala	15577
15	Madhya Pradesh	76429
16	Maharashtra	46865
17	Manipur	17219
18	Meghalalya	16839
19	Mizoram	18430
20	Nagaland	13609
21	Orissa	48366

Sl. No.	State/Uts	Forest Cover
22	Punjab	1580
23	Rajasthan	15826
24	Sikkim	3262
25	Tamil Nadu	22643
26	Tripura	8093
27	Uttar Pradesh	14118
28	Uttaranchal	24465
29	West Bengal	12343
30	A & N Islands	6964
31	Chandigarh	15
32	D & N Haveli	225
33	Damman & Diu	8
34	Lakshadweep	23
35	Pondicherry	40
	TOTAL:	678333

Statement-II

Progress of FDA projects

(As on 31.3.2005)

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of FDA Project approved
1	Andhra Pradesh	28
2	Arunachal Pradesh	13
3	Assam	24
4	Bihar	7

Sl. No.	Name of State/UT	No. of FDA Project approved
5	Chhattisgarh	29
6	Goa	3
7	Gujarat	16
8	Haryana	16
9	Himachal Pradesh	27
10	Jammu & Kashmir	31
11	Jharkhand	27
12	Karnataka	41
13	Kerala	14
14	Madhya Pradesh	44
15	Maharashtra	41
16	Manipur	12
17	Meghalaya	7
18	Mizoram	19
19	Nagaland	16
20	Orissa	32
21	Punjab	5
22	Rajasthan	16
23	Sikkim	7
24	Tamil Nadu	31
25	Tripura	12
26	Uttar Pradesh	56
27	Uttaranchal	30
28	West Bengal	16
	TOTAL:	620